

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Belgern Air-Ground Firing Range

CONFIDENTIAL

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1. For the month of June the Belgern firing range was used frequently and exclusively by MIG 15's. These aircraft came almost certainly from Alt L. Bannwitz. For the most part firing was carried out by aircraft flying singly, in pairs and in fours. The pairs and fours fired while in formation. On one occasion seven machines circled the target area, with a turning circle of 2-3 km, and flew in to shoot individually.
2. Each aircraft appeared to fire with two cannon. There was no machine gun fire. The shells exploded on impact and left a red tracer in the air at least for the first part of their flight. The shell cases were ejected and fell to the ground. No more than two bursts were fired and often only one on the run in.
3. The maximum distance at which firing commenced was 1500 meters and the minimum approximately 800 meters. The average was therefore just about 1 km distance. Height while firing was estimated at between 300 and 500 meters.
4. Pairs of aircraft firing in formation were estimated to be spaced 50 meters apart, between fuselages, with the second machine 30 to 50 meters behind. Four aircraft firing in formation were in echelon with about 30 meters between fuselages and staggered at about 100 meters.

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